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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 EUR-12
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /073 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:MACHISEK LK
APPROVED BY AF/S:DKPETTERSON
AF/S:LMACFARLANE
P:GMOOSE
----------108092 152336Z /65
O 152258Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DURBAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR; SF, US

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM

REF: STATE 119854

1. SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR SOLE PAID COURTESY CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS NEWSOM ON MONDAY, MAY 15.

2. SOLE OPENED DISCUSSION BY STATING THAT WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AT THIS POINT, HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND OUR ACTION IN THE VAN ROOYEN AFFAIR. HE STATED THAT VAN ROOYEN'S ACTIVITIES WERE NON POLITICAL
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AND THAT HIS COMMENTS HAD BEEN MADE IN A PRIVATE GATHERING AND IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AND HAD NOT BEEN INTENDED TO HAVE A POLITICAL IMPACT. SOLE SAID HE WISHED WE HAD WAITED FOR HIS RETURN. HE WAS PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED THAT WE HAD RELEASED TO THE PRESS WORD OF THE MEETING BEFORE AWAITING A RESPONSE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

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3. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM RESPONDED THAT IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO MAKE THE MATTER MORE OF AN ISSUE THAN THE PRESS HAD ALREADY DONE. IT HAD COME TO OUR ATTENTION FROM THE

PRESS, WHICH HAD REPEATEDLY PRESSED US FOR A RESPONSE. NEWSOM ADDED THAT AS IMPORTANT AS THE NATURE OF VAN ROOYEN'S COMMENTS WAS, MORE IMPORTANT WAS THE FACT THAT THEY HAD BEEN MADE WITHIN THE CONSTITUENCY OF A POLITICIAN RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION. NEWSOM EMPHASIZED THAT OUR PRESS STATEMENT INCLUDED THE CAVEAT THAT WE WERE ACTING ON INFORMATION AS SUPPLIED IN THE PRESS.

3. SOLE THEN STATED THAT WHILE THE MATTER WAS CLOSED AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, HE COULD NEVERTHELESS NOT COMPREHEND OUR RATIONALE. HE SAID THAT VAN ROOYEN'S COMMENTS WERE NOTHING LIKE THOSE MADE BY ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OR FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN IN TRYING TO APPEAL OVER THE HEAD OF THE ADMINISTRATION. NEWSOM COUNTERED BY SAYING HE KNEW OF NO INSTANCE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS COMMENTING ON A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. SOLE ADDED THAT HE HAD INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN SOUTH AFRICA, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHEN ASKED TO DO SO BY NEWSOM.

4. MEMCON OF REMAINDER OF CONVERSATION, WHICH CENTERED ON GENERAL AFRICAN TOPICS, WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY POUCH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780557/aaaabwhw.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 78 STATE 119854
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2685535
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, SF, US
To: PRETORIA CAPE TOWN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ef62c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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